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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,585	08/27/2001	Mikihiro Kajita	Q65648	2717

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SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

PAYNE, DAVID C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2633

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/938,585

Applicant(s)

KAJITA, MIKIHIRO

Examiner

David C. Payne

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2001.  
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/3-18-04.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Levinson US 5,019,769 (Levinson).

Re claims 1 and 13, Levinson disclosed

A method for detecting an abnormality of an optical module comprising the steps of: (a) detecting a value of a current flowing through a specified spot of the optical module (e.g., col./line: 5/1-10); (b) holding the detected value of the current in a memory (e.g., col./line: 9/16-21); (c) detecting a value of a current flowing through the specified spot at every predetermined time (e.g., col./line: 9/22-30); (d) obtaining a differential value between the value of the current held in the memory and the value of the current newly detected (e.g., col./line: 9/5-15); and (e) generating alarm signal indicating a necessity of preventive maintenance when the obtained differential value exceeds a predetermined threshold value (e.g., col./line: 9/10-15).

Re claims 2 and 10, Levinson disclosed

wherein the value of the current flowing through the specified spot is a value of a current in a power line for supplying power to the optical module (e.g., col./line: 5/1-5).

Re claims 3 and 11, Levinson disclosed

wherein the value of the current flowing through the specified spot is a monitor current value of an optical output (*w.r.t.* claim 11, transmission light source) of the optical module (e.g., col./line: 13/60-65).

Re claim 4, Levinson disclosed

wherein the value of the current flowing through the specified spot is a value of a bias current of the transmission light source (e.g., col./line: 12/40-45).

Re claims 5 and 12, Levinson disclosed

wherein the value of the current hold in the memory is a value of a current flowing through the specified spot at the start time of the use of the optical module (e.g., col./line: 4/50-55).

Re claims 7 and 15, Levinson disclosed

wherein the detected value of the current flowing through the specified spot of the optical module is an average value of currents for the predetermined time (e.g., col./line: 5/14-15).

Re claim 8, Levinson further disclosed

sending an alarm when the drive current exceeded a predefined level by a certain percentage which is also understood as a ratio (see Levinson col./line: 9/7-11).

Re claims 9 and 16, Levinson disclosed

An apparatus for detecting an abnormality of an optical module comprising: a current detector which detects a value of a current flowing through a specified spot of said optical module (e.g., col./line: 5/1-10); a memory which holds the value of the current detected by said current detector e.g., col./line: 9/16-21; an arithmetic circuit ((162) of Figure 3) which obtains a differential value (*w.r.t.* claim 10, ratio of a differential value) between the value of the current held in said memory and a value of a current newly detected by said current detector (e.g., col./line: 9/5-15); and an alarm circuit (e.g., col./line: 9/13, (162) of Figure 3) which generates alarm signal indicating a necessity of preventive maintenance when the differential value obtained by said arithmetic circuit exceeds a predetermined threshold value (e.g., col./line: 9/10-15).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levinson US 5,019,769 (Levinson).

Re claim 6, Levinson does not disclose

wherein the value of the current held in the memory is overwritten to the value of the current that is newly detected in the specified spot when a differential value is obtained. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to overwrite old data in memory to conserve on the use of memory where intermediate data points are not needed. Furthermore, this technique is extremely well known in the art.

Re claim 14, Levinson does not explicitly disclose

wherein said memory includes a first memory and a second memory, said first memory receives and holds a value of a current from said current detector, and sends out the value of the current held until then to said second memory, said second memory holds the value of the current sent from said first memory, and said arithmetic circuit obtains a differential value between the values of the currents held in said first memory and said second memory.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the arithmetic calculations described in Levinson necessarily require storing two values in separate memory register maps in order to perform a calculation as this is the most basic function of an ALU in a microprocessor. Again, the claimed material is extremely well known in the art.

*Conclusion*

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following prior art all contain disclosures of storing operating parameters of a circuit or laser diode and using that data to control the circuit or laser diode: King et al. US 5,812,572, Yeates US 5,396,059, Zhang US 6,055,252, Nakano US 6,292,497, Kanuchok et al. US 5,751,532.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Payne whose telephone number is (703) 306-0004. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7a-4p.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (703) 305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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